

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-06 CU-05

SCS-03 SCA-01 SWF-02 SPM-01 EB-11 IO-14 TRSE-00 DRC-01

SR-02 ORM-03 /172 W

----- 106670

R 021816Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8208

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SWEL, PINT, HO

SUBJECT: ANACH DISSATISFACTION WITH GOH RELIEF EFFORTS

BEGIN SUMMARY: HONDURAS' LARGEST CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION, ANACH, IS ONE OF SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE DISSATISFIED WITH GOH RELIEF EFFORTS. ANACH PERCEIVES POLITICAL MOTIVATION BEHIND CURRENT RELIEF POLICIES AND FEARS THAT IT WILL BE ORGANIZATIONALY WEAKENED IF IT IS EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION IN RELIEF ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HONDURAN CAMPESINOS (ANACH) IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS DISSATISFIED WITH GOH RELIEF EFFORTS. OTHER GROUPS INCLUDE TRADE UNIONS, THE

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PRIVATE SECTOR AND STUDENTS. ALTHOUGH THE REASONS VARY, IN

THE CASE OF ANACH THE COMPLAINTS RESULT FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S INABILITY TO GAIN ACCESS TO RELIEF SUPPLIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED BY ITS AFFILIATES. THE ANACH CASE IS DESCRIBED BECAUSE ITS INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE RECENT DISASTER MAY BE SHARED IN SOME DEGREE BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

2. SHORTLY FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF HURRICANE FIFI ANACH OFFICERS BEGAN A SURVEY OF THE NEEDS OF THEIR AFFILIATES IN LOCAL AREAS AND TOOK STEPS TO TRY TO SECURE RELIEF SUPPLIES AND TRANSPORTATION. FAILING TO GET A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PEDRO SULA ANACH TURNED ELSEWHERE AND WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN 10,000 LBS. OF FOOD TO FILL ONE CONVOY OF TRUCKS. IN FRUSTRATION THEY TURNED TO THE US AID CONTRACTOR AIFLD (AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT) FOR ASSISTANCE. AIFLD DISCUSSED ANACH'S PROBLEMS WITH AID WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES IN TURN DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH HENRY JOLST, MAYOR OF SAN PEDRO SULA. HOLST ANSWERED THAT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO ANACH WOULD RESULT IN HIS BEING BESIEGED BY REQUESTS FROM PRIVATE GROUPS WHICH WOULD UPSET HIS GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION SCHEME. ANACH COUNTERED THAT VIEW BY ARGUING THAT SINCE ITS LOCAL COMMUNITIES (SOME VILLAGES ARE VIRTUALLY ANACH SETTLEMENTS) ARE NOT RECEIVING AID THAT THE MAYOR'S GEOGRAPHIC PLAN IS NOT WORKING AND IF THE MAYOR INSISTS ON A GEOGRAPHIC SCHEME, ANACH SHOULD BE GIVEN A SPECIFIC AREA TO SERVICE WITH THEIR AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION AND VOLUNTEERS.

3. ANACH VIEWS THE MAYOR'S REAL OBJECTIONS AS POLITICAL. THEY THINK THAT AS A LARGE LAND OWNER HIMSELF HE WISHES TO USE HIS CONTROL THE RELIEF EFFORT TO REINFORCE THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF THE LANDOWNER CLASS TO THE EXCLUSION AND DETRIMENT OF CAMPESINOS. THE ANACH LEADERSHIP IS ALREADY FEELING RANK AND FILE PRESSURE BECAUSE OF ITS FAILURE TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF ITS AFFILIATES AND IS PARTICULARLY FRUSTRATED BECAUSE OF ITS FEELING THAT THE CAPACITY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM EXISTS IF ONLY IT HAD ACCESS TO THE FLOW OF RELIEF SUPPLIES ENTERING THE COUNTRY. ANACH FEELS FURTHER THREATENED IN THAT ITS ARCH RIVAL, THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION UNC, (WITH INFORMAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC TIES) IS AFFILIATED THROUGH THE SOCIAL-CHRISTIAN

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APPARATUS TO SUCH CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AS CARITAS AND THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE WHICH ARE PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN THE RELIEF EFFORT. ANACH FEARS THAT THE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS WILL USE THEIR CONTROL OF RELIEF GOODS TO THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OF UNC. BECAUSE OF ITS INABILITY TO OBTAIN RELIEF SUPPLIES ANACH HAS PREPARED A DETAILED PETITION EXPLAINING ITS EFFORTS AND CAPACITIES WHICH WAS ADDRESSED TO CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ, AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ AND DIRECTORS

OF CERTAIN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. THE PETITION ASKS THAT SUPPLIES BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO ANACH FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ITS AFFILIATES.

4. THESE FEELINGS OF THE ANACH LEADERSHIP CANNOT HELP BUT BE EXACERBATED BY AN ARTICLE IN LA NOTICIA OF SEPTEMBER 30 DETAILING STRONG CRITICISM OF ANACH MEMBERS AGAINST THEIR ORGANIZATION FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE AID. "AN ANACH?" ASKS LA NOTICIA, "... THEY HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN." LA NOTICIA TENDS TO BE REGARDED AS THE VOICE OF THE LARGE LANDOWNERS AND OF BUSINESS. TO RECEIVE THIS KIND OF CRITICISM FROM LA NOTICIA WHILE SUFFERING FROM AN INABILITY TO GET SUPPLIES TO WHICH ACCESS IS CONTROLLED BY A LARGE LANDOWNER MUST BE PARTICULARLY GALLING TO THE ANACH LEADERSHIP.

5. COMMENT: IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES OVER THE LONG TERM THERE CAN BE CONSEQUENCES THAT TRANSCEND ANACH INTERNAL POLITICS. ANACH LEADERSHIP HAS CONSIDERED STAGING A MASSIVE CAMPESINO DEMONSTRATION IN SAN PEDRO SULA TO PROTEST THE WAY RELIEF IS MANAGED. IF THIS HAPPENS IT COULD POSSIBLY DESTROY THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS LATELY EXISTED BETWEEN ANACH AND THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT AND DEPRIVE THE LATTER OF ONE OF ITS VIRTUALLY UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORTERS.

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